

# God's Garden

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon the earth,  
And saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful,  
He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew that you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered "Peace be thine."  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone...  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.  
Author: D. W. MCCONWAY

## Acknowledgement

The Rivers and Riddick Family would like to take this time and opportunity to thank each of you for your comforting words, your phone calls, visits, flowers, and genuine concern expressed to us during our time of bereavement. We pray that God will bless and keep each of you.

Professional Services Entrusted To:

*Steven L. Lyons Funeral Home*



1515 New Bern Ave  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
919-831-2596



[www.stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.stevenlyonsfuneralhome.com)



*Forever In Our Hearts*



MRS.  
*Martha*  
RIVERS RIDDICK

APRIL 22, 1928 ~ FEBRUARY 16, 2021

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

12 NOON

*St. Matthew Baptist Church*  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

THE REV. DR. RONALD E. AVERY, PASTOR, OFFICIATING



# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Avery, Officiating*

## CALL TO CELEBRATION

*Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Avery*

## PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE

*Evangelist Fannie Holmes*

## RESOLUTIONS

*Alice Lambright*

## WORDS OF COMFORT

*Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Avery*

## MUSICAL SELECTION

## COMMITTAL

## BENEDICTION

# *The Obituary*

*Mrs. Martha Rivers Riddick, age 92, of Raleigh, NC, passed away Tuesday morning, February 16, 2021, at Universal Healthcare. She was born April 22, 1928, in Wake County, a daughter of the late Jack Rivers and Cora Hovies Rivers.*

*Martha was preceded in death by her husband Iven G. Riddick; daughter, Gracie D. Rivers; three brothers, Roy Rivers, Floyd Rivers and Edward Rivers; and three sisters, Mary Spivey, Patsy Coley, and Margie Southern.*

*She was a member of St. Matthew Baptist Church for many years until her health declined. She worked faithfully with the youth or “plant bed” of the church. She enjoyed cooking and baking for family, friends, and church events. She was famous for her cakes, pies, and cornbread. She always enjoyed traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Martha worked many years for Dr. George Debnam and the late Dr. Marjorie Debnam until she retired. In later years, Martha became the “Matriarch” of the Rivers Family Reunions.*

*Martha is survived by two sons, Floyd Rivers of the home, James Rivers (Sonya) of Raleigh; six grandchildren, Patrick Hartsfield, James Johnson, Kristen Rivers, Katrina Hartsfield, Jasmine Rivers, and Annetta Faison; a host of great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; two special nieces, Mary Spivey of Raleigh, Fannie Mae Holmes (Earl) of Goldsboro; and one dear sister-in-law Viola Jackson of Raleigh. She also leaves to mourn loving and special nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.*

